

JAMES WILLIAM WATSON, who is now living retired in the Village of Glendale, as one of the venerable and honored pioneer citizens of Kane County, was born at Crowle, Lincolnshire, England, August 25, 1848, a son of John Webster Watson and Mary (Hutchinson) Watson, the former of whom was born at Butterwick-on-Trent, England, and the latter on a farm lying adjacent to Crowle. In their native land Mr. and Mrs. John W. Watson became converts to the faith of the Latter Day Saints, and in 1863 they sailed on the ship *Amazon*, the first sailing vessel with a cargo of Mormons to leave London for New York, from thence coming across the plains with ox teams in Captain MacArthur's and James Andrus' Company, arriving in Salt Lake in October, 1863. James William Watson of this review located at Bountiful and there engaged in the broom making business. Within a comparatively short period, however, both parents and son removed to Farmington, and there occurred the death of the devoted wife and mother. John W. Watson was for a time in the colony along the Muddy River, but shortly afterward removed to the Kanab community of Kane County, whence he subsequently removed to St. George, Washington County, he having been one of the sterling pioneer citizens of Utah at the time of his death.

James William Watson gained his early education in the schools of his native land and was about fifteen years of age when he came with his parents to Utah, the family having crossed the Atlantic on an old-time sailing vessel and the long and weary journey across the plains to Utah having been with wagon and ox team, so that the entire journey from England to the destination was one of slow locomotion. While Mr. Watson was located at Bountiful he resided in the home of the Ashby family and there learned the trade of broom making, which he followed incidentally after he had, with his father, located on the Muddy River, he having engaged in farming on the Nevada side of the river. In 1866, while he was residing at Farmington, he was called with others to go to the Sevier River district and assist in defending the settlements against attack by the Indians, at the time of the Black Hawk war. In 1868 he was sent with other pioneers to the Muddy River, and

"Hath - Shared Dominion" After Vol III pp 145-147



9
D. D.
11

while he was there a delegation from the settlement was sent to Long Valley to make report as to its desirability as a place of settlement. The delegation reported that the valley had land of exceptional fertility, and in 1871 Mr. Watson became a member of the new colony or settlement, he having located in the Glendale community and the original name of the village having been Berryville. In this locality he turned his attention to agricultural and live stock enterprise, and in the early days he assisted also in the building and operating of grist mills and saw mills. He finally sold his properties at Glendale and removed with his family to Luna, New Mexico, where he remained somewhat more than two years. He then returned to the Glendale community, which has continued his place of residence during the long intervening years and in which he was for many years actively identified with productive ranch industry.

Prior to 1866 Mr. Watson had served the Church of Latter Day Saints in the office of secretary of the Seventy-fifth Quorum of the Seventies, and within the period of his residence at Glendale he has served in virtually every office of the local church stake except that of bishop. It is a matter of pride and satisfaction to him that he was ordained a high priest by the distinguished church apostle Francis Marion Lyman. He has served as presiding elder, was Sunday school superintendent thirty years, was choir leader for an equal period, and was a counselor to the bishop. He has been liberal and progressive in his civic attitude and has given service as school trustee.

In the old Endowment House in Salt Lake City the marriage of Mr. Watson to Miss Thirza Bunting was solemnized in the year 1867, being sealed by Joseph F. Smith. Mrs. Watson was born in England, a daughter of Edward and Mary Ann (Stewart) Bunting, who, as converts of the Church of Latter Day Saints, came to the United States in the 1860 decade, the death of Mr. Bunting having occurred at St. Louis, Missouri, and his widow having later become the wife of Reuben Broadbent, captain of the company that crossed the plains to Utah. The Broadbent home was established at Farmington, removal having later been made to the Muddy River district, and finally settlement having been made in the Long Valley of Kane County. Mr. Broadbent was a skilled mechanic and here with the help of James W. Watson and James Leithead erected the first grist mill at Glendale. He later went to American Fork, and both he and his wife were residents of Kanab, Kane County, at the time of their death. To Mr. and Mrs. Watson were born eleven children: Reuben J., John H. (individually mentioned on other pages), Priscilla (deceased), Mary Ellen, Ida, Ambrose L., Arthur and Edwin (both deceased), Mabel, Thirza and Platt.

Mr. Watson continues to think and act in terms of comparative youth, and both mentally and physically belies the years that have passed over his head. He was present at the dedication of the airport at Cedar City, in 1929, and made his first airplane ascent on that occasion, when he was eighty-one years of age, in company with his daughter Thirza. He vividly recalls the long voyage from